

APPENDIX B. AGENCY RESPONSE LETTERS

Albert F. Brown, M.P.A., R.S.
Director



MARICOPA COUNTY
Environmental Services Dept.
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July 31, 2001

Mr. Michael Shirley
Environmental Planner
Logan Simpson Design, Inc.
51 W. Third St., #450
Tempe AZ 85281

Dear Mr. Shirley:

This is in response to your letter of July 25, 2001 regarding an environmental assessment for 51st Avenue Overpass at Bethany Home Road/Grand Avenue.

Pages v through vii include a list of Mitigation Measures. The measures include obtaining necessary air quality and asbestos permits for demolition of structures. In addition to an Earthmoving Permit, separate permits may be needed for any cement or asphalt batch plants used at the construction site. The Maricopa County Environmental Services Department (MCESD) appreciates Arizona Department of Transportation's (ADOT's) acknowledgment of these requirements. We are able to assist the selected contractor with obtaining these permits. Please refer the selected contractor to this department by having them call 602-506-6010 for information.

Because Grand Avenue intersections have a history of high carbon monoxide concentrations during the winter months, the flow of traffic should be maintained during the construction project. On page 39, it is indicated that efforts will be made to reduce traffic queuing. Although not specified in the document, it is likely that most road closures and detours will occur at night or on weekends. The highest concentrations of carbon monoxide occur at night during winter months. Road closure and/or detours at night during a high air pollution advisory should be avoided, unless traffic flow can be maintained on all streets through and next to the construction project. ADOT or the selected contractor should maintain communication with the MCESD during the planning of night-time road closures or detours during winter months. The department's air quality program receptionist will gladly assist in finding someone to consult with about current air quality conditions. Please refer the appropriate person to 602-506-6010 for information.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Al Brown".

Al Brown
Director

cc: Steve Peplau

Mike Shirley

From: Bob Coons [BCoons@ci.glendale.az.us]
Sent: Wednesday, August 01, 2001 11:24 AM
To: Mike Shirley
Subject: Draft Environmental Assessments (Grand Avenue at 43rd and 51st)

Mike,

I've reviewed the draft EA's you sent me recently on these two projects. As I only have a couple of minor comments/questions on the documents, not substantive in nature, I'm sending this e-mail in lieu of a formal written letter as identified in your cover letter.

Grand Avenue Overpass @ 43rd/Camelback:

1. Relative to proposed aesthetic/artistic treatments to the overpass structure, the report only mentions the City of Phoenix. The City of Glendale is collaborating and cost sharing with Phoenix on the proposed artistic wall enhancements as half or more of the enhanced walls are within Glendale. I found 3 locations in the report referencing just Phoenix relative to the enhancements (first #2 on page v; last paragraph on page 42, and 1st paragraph on page 43).

51st Avenue Overpass @ Bethany/Grand:

1. In two locations in this report (2nd paragraph on page 11 and 3rd paragraph on page 18) there is reference to the needed acquisition of 27 privately owned parcels of land and "one parcel owned by the City of Glendale". I do not know of any City-owned parcel directly impacted and needed for the project. What parcel of land are you referencing as City-owned?

Bob

Mike Shirley

From: Boggs, Stuart [StuartB@vm.maricopa.gov]
Sent: Friday, August 10, 2001 9:14 AM
To: Mike Shirley
Cc: Dickey, Jim
Subject: Project No. STP-060-B() 51st Avenue Overpass

Michael Shirley
Environmental Planner
LOGAN SIMPSON DESIGN INC.

Dear Mr. Shirley:

This is in regards to the Draft Environmental Assessment for the 51st Avenue Overpass at Bethany Home Road/Grand Avenue project. As proposed, the preferred alternative (#4) would compromise opportunities for bus transfers between future bus service on 51st Avenue, the Yellow Line and Rt. 60. While there is presently no bus service on 51st Avenue, a service extension along 51st Avenue is contained in the Glendale Transportation Plan that will go to the voters in November.

With the completion of the grade separation project, buses travelling north on 51st Avenue would need to turn left onto Montebello Avenue, then north on 52nd Avenue in order to access Bethany Home Road and Grand Avenue. To connect back to 51st Avenue, the northbound bus would then have to turn left onto the North Service Road and left onto 51st Avenue. Southbound buses on 51st Avenue would fare worse since they would need to cross the Bethany Home Road/Grand Avenue intersection twice by way of the fly over in order to connect with the Yellow Line and Rt. 60. Southbound buses on 51st Avenue would turn right onto Montebello Avenue, right onto 52nd Avenue, then right onto Bethany Home Road, left onto the North Service Road, and finally left onto 51st Avenue.

As an alternative, two bus bays could be constructed on the embankment north of the new 51st Avenue bridge with sidewalks providing access to the north side of Grand Avenue. This would eliminate the need for the figure eight movement that southbound buses on 51st Avenue would otherwise have to make in order to provide a connection to Rt. 60 and the Yellow Line. Since construction of this grade separation project will not begin until 2003, it is quite possible that bus service on 51st Avenue will be in place by the time this project is completed. Accommodating 51st Avenue bus service at this time would avoid the need for a costly retrofit down the road that would cause additional construction impacts to area residents and businesses.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions or would like to discuss these comments further.

Stuart Boggs
Manager of Transit Planning
Regional Public Transportation Authority
602-534-5474